

Message Text

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ACTION OES-05

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R 250717Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7673

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, IS

SUBJ: US-ISRAEL BINATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (BSF)

EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS

REF: A. STATE 162887; (B) TEL AVIV 2871

1. SCIATT HAS DISCUSSED QUESTION OF EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROTEM AND ARANNE (LEGAL ADVISOR TO PM'S OFFICE) AND WE NOW HAVE THEIR CONCURRENCE FOR A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS POSED BY DR. STEVER'S LETTER TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONER. IN LETTER OF JULY 16 TO SCIATT, ROTEM NOTES THAT HE AND ARANNE HAVE AGREED TO AN ADDITIONAL CLAUSE TO BE INSERTED IN THE STEVER LETTER. THE CLAUSE WOULD BE NUMBERED 5 AND WOULD READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE ABOVE DECLARATION WILL NOT APPLY TO EMPLOYEE OF THE BSF WHO ARE U.S. CITIZENS AND ARE IN ISRAEL AS NON-PERMANENT RESIDENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT UNQUOTE.

2. PLEASE CONFIRM ASAP DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE WITH ADDITIONAL NEW PARA, AND WE WILL THEN REQUEST ROTEM TO REDRAFT THE LETTER FOR DR. STEVER'S SIGNATURE.

3. IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN AMERICAN BOARD MEMBERS AND DCM (THEN CHARGE) IN JERUSALEM IN FEBRUARY, IT WAS AGREED (1) THAT BOG WOULD NOT CONFIRM AS DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THE ISRAELI WHO HAD BEEN ACTING IN THIS POSITION FOR SEVERAL MONTHS, AND (2) WE SHOULD GET ENOUGH FLEXIBILITY RE CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT TO ENABLE U.S. SIDE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTIVELY RECRUIT QUALIFIED AMERICAN CANDIDATES. LETTER AS MODIFIED GIVES US THIS FLEXIBILITY. WE HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT REAL TALENT HUNT WILL GET UNDERWAY SOON.

4. AS CONCERNS PARA 4, REFTEL (A), IT CAME AS A SUPRISE SINCE WE HAVE ASSUMED FOR SOME TIME THAT DEPARTMENT AND BOG AGREED WITH CONSISTANT EMBASSY POSITION THAT WE COULD NOT LIMIT OURSELVES TO THESE CATEGORIES. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL (B) AND AS LATE AS DISCUSSIONS IN DEPARTMENT WITH SCIATT IN MAY, WE WERE REASSURED ON THIS POINT. AS MENTIONED EARLIER, HOWEVER, MODIFIED LETTER OPENS UP THE FIELD AND RENDERS ANY PREVIOUS MISUNDERSTANDINGS MOOT.

5. UNDER NEW CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY SUGGESTS FOLLOWING METHOD FOR FINDING A U.S. CITIZEN TO FILL DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITON. ON ROTATING BASIS USG AGENCIES COULD DETAIL SENIOR SCIENTIST FOR 2-3 YEARS WITH DIFFERENCE IN BSF SALARY AND U.S. SALARY COVERED BY AGENCY. OBVIOUS BENEFITS ARE: A) AVOIDANCE OF SALARY DIFFERENCE PROBLEM WHICH COULD LIMIT CHOICE OF CANDIDATES, B) ASSURANCE OF PERSON FAMILIAR WITH USG S&T INTEREST/ORGANIZATION; C) USG INTERESTS CLOSER COUPLED TO BSF ACTIVITIES, ETC. TOON

UNCLASSIFIED

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